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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Hexham Rural District Council

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1942,

BY

DR. G. PATTON.

HEXHAM :

R. ROBSON & SONS, THE ABBEY PRESS, PRIESTPOPPLE.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PROSPECT HOUSE,
HEXHAM.

To Chairman and Members of the Hexham Rural District Council :—

I have pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ending December 31st, 1942.

This report does not take the usual form, being condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and is mainly statistical.

**A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

AREA 196,030 acres.

Vital Statistics.

				TOTAL.	M.	F.
Births	* Legitimate	...	...	318	168	150
	Illegitimate	...	...	13	6	7

* *Corrected by Registrar's General Figures.*

STILL BIRTHS.—The following figures are given by the Registrar General and are not included in the above :—

				TOTAL.	M.	F.
	Legitimate	...	...	6	4	2
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

					Rate per 1,000.	
					Total Deaths	(Live & Still) Births
No. 29.	Puer. and post-abort.	Sepsis...	1		2.9	
No. 30.	Other maternal causes	...	Nil.		Nil.	
	TOTAL	...	...	1	2.9	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	21.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...			22.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	42
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

BIRTHS.—The actual number of births registered in the Rural District of Hexham is 1,603 compared with 1,479 in 1941 and 795 in 1940. This number is made up of 853 males and 750 females.

The following Table gives the uncorrected Births as they are distributed :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Allendale ...	1941	17	19	1	—	18	19	37
	1942	30	24	1	1	31	25	56
Bywell ...	1941	12	23	2	—	14	23	37
	1942	17	17	—	—	17	17	31
Chollerton...	1941	17	16	—	1	17	17	34
	1942	18	27	—	—	18	27	45
Hexham ...	1941	667	643	29	32	696	675	1371
	1942	759	666	28	15	787	681	1468
Total for District	1941	713	701	32	33	745	734	1479
	1942	821	734	29	16	853	750	1603

DEATHS.—During the year there have been 288 deaths of persons in, and belonging to the Rural District. This is a decrease on last year when there were 291. In the preceding year there were 300.

The following Table classifies these deaths, according to their age groups in each sub-district, also into Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths :—

District	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total
Age Group :					
0—1 ...	—	1	1	5	7
1—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	1	1	1	—	3
15—25 ...	1	1	1	—	3
25—45 ...	3	5	1	6	15
45—65 ...	11	20	7	14	52
Over 65 ...	58	58	49	43	208
Totals all ages	74	86	60	68	288
Uncertified { M.	1	1	1	2	5
{ F.	1	1	—	2	4
Infant { M.	—	1	1	4	6
{ F.	—	—	—	1	1
Adult { M.	35	42	28	31	136
{ F.	39	43	31	32	145

288

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	TOTAL
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ...	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tub. of Resp. System...	—	—	—	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	1	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	1	—	—	1
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M)					
uterus (F) ...	2	1	2	—	5
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	1	1	5
Cancer of breast ...	—	1	1	—	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	11	6	6	7	30
Diabetes ...	1	—	—	—	1
Intra-cran. Vasc. lesions ...	13	18	11	10	52
Heart Disease ...	24	22	20	19	85
Other dis. of circ. system ...	1	2	1	—	4
Bronchitis ...	—	5	4	3	12
Pneumonia ...	3	3	—	1	7
Other resp. diseases ...	—	1	1	—	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	1	—	—	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	—	1	—	—	1
Appendicitis ...	1	—	1	—	2
Other digestive diseases ...	3	3	1	2	9
Nephritis ...	4	6	2	3	15
Puer and post-abortion. sepsis ...	—	1	—	—	1
Other maternal causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	—	—	1	2	3
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	—	1	—	4	5
Suicide ...	—	1	1	1	3
Road Traffic accidents ...	—	1	—	1	2
Other violent causes ...	1	—	4	2	7
All Other causes ...	6	9	3	10	28
TOTAL ...	74	86	60	68	288

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 12 in 1941 and 16 in 1940. The Infant Mortality Rate is 21.1 per thousand births registered, compared with 42.2 for 1941 and 56.1 for 1940.

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE OF THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Is similar to that of previous year.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Does not differ materially from the previous report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table gives the particulars asked for in the district. The numbers of those converted from the conservancy system are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Table later in the Report :—

Type	1942	Converted during Year.
W.C.'s	2664	—
Privies	3188	To W.C.'s, 6
Pails	447	do. 2

Apart from Closet Accommodation, no material alteration from last report.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conditions, water supplies and sanitary conveniences as in the last report.

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1942.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) By other Bodies or Persons —	—	Nil.	Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Do not differ materially from the previous report.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections systematically carried out.

Infectious Diseases, 1937-1942 (inclusive).

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	32	53	62	17	11	13
Diphtheria ...	4	13	28	16	13	7
Enteric ...	—	1	2	1	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	2	11	17	13
Erysipelas...	6	4	8	2	7	3
Pneumonias ...	33	26	15	14	16	11
Whooping Cough...	—	—	7	11	59	1
Measles ...	—	—	7	170	91	65

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1942.

	Total number of Children Immunised	Pre- School Children	School Children
Diphtheria Immunisation	754	196	558

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 8 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality during 1942 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	3	1	3	2	—	—	—

TABLE No. 2.

Causes of Death, shewing sex distribution, during Year ending
31st December, 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel and polio-enceph	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer of Buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	14	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	...	19	33
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	43	42
Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Other resp. diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	12	16
						142	146
TOTAL						288	

Table No. 3.

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1942.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox - -
Chicken-pox - -
Measles - -
Scarlet Fever - -
Whooping Cough - -
Diphtheria and Croup - -
Erysipelas - -
Tuberculous Meningitis - -
Abdominal Tuberculosis - -
Other Tuberculous Diseases - -
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) - -
Convulsions - -
Laryngitis - -
Bronchitis - -
Pneumonia (all forms) - -
Diarrhoea - -
Enteritis - -	1	...	...	1
Gastritis - -
Melaena Neonatorum - -
Rickets - -
Suffocation, overlying - -
Inattention at Birth - -
Congenital Malformations - -	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth - -	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and - -
Marasmus - -
Other causes - -
All causes { Certified.	6	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	7
{ Uncertified.
GRAND TOTALS -	6	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	7

FOOD INSPECTION, 1942.

UNSOUND FOOD.		Surrendered		Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
		Sts.	Lbs.		
Beef (home-killed) ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ (Imported) ...	...	—	—	—	—
Mutton (home-killed) ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ (Imported) ...	...	14	3½	—	—
Pork ...	...	—	—	—	—
Bacon ...	...	12	5¾	—	—
Fruit ...	...	—	—	—	—
Other Foods (Sugar) ...	...	2	2	—	—
White Beans (American) ...	...	190	10	—	—
Canned Goods : Tins ...	...	887 tins		—	—
Total ...	...	219	7½		
		887 tins.			

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district ...	...	670
Approximate number of Cows kept ...	...	9,500

